EPISODE FOUR

REPRISE END EPISODE THREE

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

The DOCTOR staring at ICTHAR.

2nd COMPANION comes out of the Computer Bank Bay.

2nd COMPANION: The damage is assessed Icthar. The computer can be restored to normal functioning.

Vorshak: Hubon should require manage it after all

ICTHAR looks at the Captive group. The DOCTOR watching him carefully.

ICTHAR: Who is in command here?

VORSHAK steps forward.

VORSHAK: I am the senior officer.

ICTHAR: You will remain. (To Sauvix) Confine the rest until our primary mission is completed.

About to move away when the DOCTOR steps out to confront him.

SAUVIX and The Sea Devils raise their weapons menacingly.

THE DOCTOR: You do not recognise me now but we are known to each other.

ICTHAR studies him.

ICTHAR: You are mistaken... Take him away.

THE DOCTOR: Wait... please! In an earlier regeneration Icthar, you knew me as the Doctor.

ICTHAR reacts.

ICTHAR: The Doctor... The Time Lord of Gallifrey?

The DOCTOR nods seriously.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

Two Sea Devils pacing on guard outside a door to a detention area.

New angle to show TURLOUGH's face watching them through an inspection plate in the door.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

TURLOUGH watching the Sea Devil Guards outside.

Behind him BULIC. The area has a few seats, a table and a bed. On the wall a grille covering the ventilation shaft.

TURLOUGH turns away.

TURLOUGH: We've got to get out of here.

BULIC: Suppose we did. What then. Where could we go. Those Silurians all over the place.

TURLOUGH: The Tardis. We'd be safe there. (Sees the grille) Bulic... what's that?

BULIC follows his look, then reacts.

BULIC: The ventilation shaft!

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

ICTHAR looks long and hard at the DOCTOR.

ICTHAR: You can prove that you are the Doctor?

THE DOCTOR: I know that you are Icthar, surviving leader of the noble Silurian Triad. We last met when I tried to mediate between you and the people of Earth.

ICTHAR: (Beat) So, it is you, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: May we speak Icthar?

ICTHAR, a beat, then nods.

ICTHAR: Very well. (To Sauvix) The Doctor is an old and valued friend of our people. He will remain here with the Commander. Remove the others.

TEGAN and PRESTON are ushered out by SAUVIX and two of the Sea Devils.

But

ICTHAR: I will listen to what you have to say Doctor, I should tell you. We Silurians have long since abandoned the way of mediation.

THE DOCTOR: So it seems...

I don't understand Icthar. A civilized race like yours, waging unprovoked war... why?

ICTHAR: Defensive war, Doctor. There is a distinction. Silurian law forbids any other.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

SAUVIX and the escort lead TEGAN and PRESTON up to the Detention area guarded by the two Sea Devil Warriors.

Sea Devil Guard opens the door electronically and TEGAN and PRESTON are pushed inside.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

TEGAN moves in and reacts. Rising from seats are BULIC and TURLOUGH. The door slams behind.

TEGAN: (smile) Well at least you managed to keep yourself alive.

TURLOUGH: (smile) Just about.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before.

THE DOCTOR: When we last met your supreme wish was to live in peace with the other inhabitants of the Planet. Why change such an enlightened policy now?

ICTHAR: Our policy has always been peaceful survival. All that has changed is the means by which it can be achieved.

THE DOCTOR: By actions such as those we've seen here?

ICTHAR: (hard) You forget Doctor. Twice with your help we offered the hand of friendship to these ape descended primitives. And twice we were treacherously attacked, our people slaughtered. It will not happen again.

THE DOCTOR: there can be no alternative to co-existence. Surely you Silurians have wisdom enough to understand that.

ICTHAR: There is an alternative Doctor.

THE DOCTOR; How.. by war? The people of Earth are well armed. They will resist. It will mean widescale death and destruction.

ICTHAR: True, But not for us. The only casualties will be the primitives. One and all They will be obliterated.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

BULIC takes off his belt and hands it to TURLOUGH.

TURLOUGH looks at the grille covering the ventilation shaft and nods at BULIC.

BULIC moves to position his back against the wall directly underneath the grille. He forms a hand lift.

TURLOUGH: Preston - check outside!

PRESTON moves to the inspection plate in the door. From her restricted POV she sees the two Sea Devil guards pacing about outside.

PRESTON: All right.

TURLOUGH moves forward and is hoisted up by BULIC to the level of the grille.

Using the heavy buckle of the belt he sets to work trying to prise the grille away from it's fastenings. It's hard going and he makes little progress to begin.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before.

THE DOCTOR: Genocide Icthar? When everything you Silurians hold sacred forbids it?

ICTHAR: We are conditioned to act only within our laws Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: Laws you now intend to cast aside it seems.

ICTHAR: We will harm no one. These primitives who inhabit the lands will destroy themselves. We Doctor, will merely provide the pretext.

THE DOCTOR looks off to 1st COMPANION at work at the Synch Console and suddenly understands.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

TURLOUGH held aloft by BULIC working on the Grille. It's beginning to come adrift from it's fastenings.

TEGAN watching, PRESTON by the door.

TEGAN: What's behind there?

TURLOUGH: Ventilation shaft. It runs right throughout the base.

PRESTON reacts.

PRESTON: (urgent) Look out!

TURLOUGH is dropped, and the group swiftly assemble.

A beat, and a Sea Devil face appears at the inspection plate.

TEGAN smiles blandly at the Sea Devil who continues to look in for a few moments, then goes.

Immediately TURLOUGH moves to be hoisted again by BULIC. He continues working on the grille, more urgent now.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before

THE DOCTOR: Ingenious Icthar. You observe the letter, yet violate the spirit of your law ...

Door to the computer bank bay opens and 2nd COMPANION comes out.

2nd COMPANION: The computer circuitry is restored, and tested.

ICTHAR: We will speak again Doctor.. you are welcome to stay providing you do not interfere with our operation here.

Turns and joins 2nd COMPANION at the Master Console.

ICTHAR: Activate the Missile Data Banks.

2nd COMPANION: We will need the Commander's hand scan for clearance.

ICTHAR looks at VORSHAK.

VORSHAK: You'll get no help from me, Silurian.

The Sea Devil Guard moves forward to menace VORSHAK.

ICTHAR: (hard) Your hand scan Commander. I will not ask again.

VORSHAK: What will you do Silurian? Kill me? You intend to do that anyway.

ICTHAR: Doctor - We need to evaluate the data in the missile banks. Please convince this primitive to cooperate.

THE DOCTOR: I think you should do as he says Commander.

VORSHAK: No Doctor!

ICTHAR: Kill him!

The Sea Devils raise their weapons to fire.

THE DOCTOR moves to put himself between VORSHAK and the Sea Devil weapons.

THE DOCTOR: No... Wait!

ICTHAR gestures for the Sea Devils to hold their fire.

THE DOCTOR: Please Vorshak. Do as he asks.

VORSHAK: You want me to cooperate with them?

THE DOCTOR: You have no choice.

VORSHAK: We'll see.

THE DOCTOR moves closer.

THE DOCTOR: (Soft) Alive or dead they can still use your handscan. And while there's life there's also hope, yes Commander?

VORSHAK looks at him, a beat, then he moves to place his hand on the imprint recess of the Master Console.

ICTHAR: Thank you Doctor.

Moves to Console. Presses switches and the screen begins to fill with technical data.

The DOCTOR moves forward to study the screen.

INT'. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

TURLOUGH levers the grille casing a few more times and it comes free at last.

He goes to lift it away, when suddenly PRESTON turns from the inspection plate by the door.

PRESTON: Someone's coming.

TURLOUGH slams the grille back into place but it doesn't fit true. He tries to press it back.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

SAUVIX and two Sea Devils come along the corridor to pause by the entrance to the detention area.

SAUVIX moves in to peer through the inspection plate.

HIS POV: The group assembled innocently inside.

SAUVIX's suspicious eyes sweep the area missing the grille which is askew in it's position.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

Sauvix's face moves away from the inspection plate.

All four relax, tension easing.

BULIC: Lucky.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

The DOCTOR moves back to join VORSHAK. ICTHAR and 2nd COMPANION working at the Master Console. Ist COMPANION still busy fixing up the manipulator to the synch console.

THE DOCTOR: (Low) Vorshak, a guess. How long before the next random firing sequence?

VORSHAK: ~~With the computer operational again~~ it could happen at any moment Doctor. But don't worry. Those missiles will never leave their Pads. Not without a synch operator to complete the firing sequence.

THE DOCTOR: (Thinking) Not so Vorshak.

VORSHAK: You don't understand Doctor. A synch operator is our insurance against unauthorized launch. I tell you the missiles are safe!

THE DOCTOR: See that.

Indicates the manipulator.

VORSHAK: What about it?

THE DOCTOR: If my guess is right, that little piece of Silurian gadgetry will more than make up for the lack of a synch operator.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. DETENTION AREA.

TURLOUGH takes the ventilation grille out of it's position and hands it down to TEGAN. He jumps free of BULIC's hands.

All stare at the largish entry into the ventilation shaft beyond.

TEGAN: What now?

TURLOUGH: Back to the Tardis?

TEGAN: That won't do us much good without the Doctor.

BULIC: They've also got the Commander.

TURLOUGH: Do you think we can get them away?

BULIC: We have to try. The Doctor's the only one who knows how to handle these Silurians. Turlough, you and Preston make for the Tardis and wait there. Tegan... you come with me.

BULIC moves to the wall and nods at TURLOUGH.

TURLOUGH is hoisted up and climbs into the ventilation shaft.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

TURLOUGH looks along the shaft. It stretches out, lit by light filtering through from outlet points at regular intervals.

He looks in the opposite direction. The same view in reverse. Wierd echoing noises sweep through the shaft.

TURLOUGH reaches down to begin hauling up the others.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

2nd COMPANION turns to ICTHAR.

2nd COMPANION: The missiles are re-targetted Icthar.

ICTHAR: Excellent.

THE DOCTOR is studying the screen.

THE DOCTOR: So You intend to explode the missiles in space?

ICTHAR: Yes Doctor. Our law forbids the direct use of weapons of mass destruction against other life forms.

THE DOCTOR: Just Launching those missiles will trigger off a holocaust!

ICTHAR: I told you Doctor. If The primitives choose to destroy themselves, that is their concern.

THE DOCTOR: You stretch your (precious) laws to the point of extinction Icthar!

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

BULIC and TEGAN move along the shaft. They come to an entry point and pause peering through the grille.

Their POV: Two Sea Devils on guard outside a door.

BULIC gestures for TEGAN to move on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

TURLOUGH and PRESTON moving along the shaft, heading in the opposite direction to Bulic and Tegan.

TURLOUGH: Can we get down to the lower levels from here?

PRESTON: I'm not sure. The shaft covers the base. But the vertical drops may be too steep to negotiate.

They move on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

VORSHAK moves forward to join the DOCTOR and ICTHAR.

VORSHAK: Can he do it Doctor?

THE DOCTOR: If he launches those missiles you know the result Vorshak.

VORSHAK: It would trigger a counter strike against our cities.

THE DOCTOR: Exactly. Your people will respond in kind. Back and forth, and so on until nothing is left.

ICTHAR: Only we Silurians will survive.

THE DOCTOR: Yes. Masters of a dead Planet.

ICTHAR: Not quite Doctor. Here in the ocean depths there is life. Silurian life. Millions of our kind waiting in deep hibernation. Once restored our civilization will flourish again.

THE DOCTOR: (brittle smile) If you launch those missiles of course.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

TURLOUGH and PRESTON come to the end of a shaft. Here the shaft drops down vertically to the lower levels.

PRESTON: It's no good Turlough. We'd never survive the drop down to the next level.

TURLOUGH: How far to the Tardis?

PRESTON; Down all the way from here. We'll have to use the lifts or stairways.

TURLOUGH: Let's do that.

They move to an exit grille and start freeing it.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

TEGAN and BULIC moving along. The shaft bends at right angles and they press on out of sight.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before.

ICTHAR: Your concern for the primitives is misplaced Doctor. Left to their own aggressive devices they would destroy themselves anyway. We will merely have hastened the process.

1st COMPANION moves up from the synch console.

1st COMPANION: The manipulator is in place Icthar.

ICTHAR: Stand by.

1st COMPANION moves off.

THE DOCTOR: You intend to override the random firing sequence I suppose.

ICTHAR: Yes Doctor. Our manipulator will covert the launch from simulation to actual firing of the missiles.

VORSHAK: I tell you that's impossible!

ICTHAR: We have long studied this base of yours Commander. As to our technical skills, I'm sure the Doctor can vouch for them.

THE DOCTOR: I already have.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. SHAFT/CORRIDOR.

TURLOUGH removes the grille and drops down into the corridor. A swift look about, and he signals PRESTON who climbs down to join him.

PRESTON: The lift is not far from here.

They move off. In passing TURLOUGH bends to retrieve a weapon from a dead Combat Marine.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

BULIC and TEGAN move along the shaft and up to a grille. They peer through.

Their POV: They are overlooking an area of the computer bank bay.

BULIC: This is it. If the Doctor's still here, he'll be next door on the bridge.

They start to force the grille.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before .

THE DOCTOR: What about me Icthar. Or am I also included in your final solution?

ICTHAR: We bear you no malice Doctor. We know your intentions have always been for the best.

THE DOCTOR: They still are.

ICTHAR: Once we are finished here you and your companions will be released.

THE DOCTOR: And the rest of these people?

ICTHAR: They will die. An act of mercy, since there will be nothing for them to return to...
Commander - you will please join me at the Master Console.

VORSHAK hesitates, then at a nod from the DOCTOR he goes.

The DOCTOR looks about desperately wondering what to do next.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

TURLOUGH and PRESTON move up to the lift.

About to go in when a Sea Devil appears.

TURLOUGH fires. The shot is aborted by the Sea Devil's jerkin. It's about to shoot when TURLOUGH fires again. This time the Sea Devil falls. PRESTON retrieves the Sea Devil's weapon and is about to go into the lift when TURLOUGH restrains her.

TURLOUGH: The Doctor and the others will have to come this way, won't they?

PRESTON: Yes.

TURLOUGH: We'd better stay around. Just in case they need help.

PRESTON: Yes, but not here.. (looks around and spots a deep alcove) Over there.

They move in out of sight.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

BULIC and TEGAN force the grille open and look through into the computer bank bay.

It's clear. A beat and BULIC drops down.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. COMPUTER BANK BAY.

BULIC moves to the door.
Behind TEGAN lowers herself down and moves up to join him.

BULIC cautions her to be quiet and opens the door fractionally. He peers through.

BULIC's POV: The DOCTOR on his own. By the Master Console ICTHAR 2nd COMPANION, and VORSHAK. 1st COMPANION by the synch console.

By the door - Two Sea Devils.

BULIC closes the door.

BULIC: He's in there.

He opens the door cautiously again.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

VORSHAK with ICTHAR and 2nd COMPANION by the Master Console.

1st COMPANION near the synch console.

The DOCTOR on his own, two Sea Devils on station by the door.

ICTHAR: Initiate the test firing sequence, Commander.

VORSHAK hesitates then lays his hand on the imprint recess.

A stream of data floods the screen.

The DOCTOR glances around and reacts.

The door to the computer bank bay is opening cautiously.

It opens further and he sees BULIC who indicates caution.

The DOCTOR carefully checks the positions of the Sea Devil guards.

He nods imperceptibly at BULIC who closes the door.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. COMPUTER BANK BAY.

BULIC and TEGAN.

TEGAN: Did he see you?

BULIC: Yes.. And he'd better hurry, it can't be long before they discover we've gone.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before.

The DOCTOR works his way innocently over to the equipment near the door to the Computer bank bay.
A Sea Devil turns to watch him. He pretends to be absorbed in the equipment. Then, as soon as the Sea

Devil's eyes have moved on, he quickly moves through the door, closing it softly behind him.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. COMPUTER BANK BAY.

The DOCTOR smiles at BULIC and TEGAN.

THE DOCTOR: Excellent timing.

Looks off and sees the gaping entry to the ventilation shaft.

THE DOCTOR: (contd.) The ventilation shaft. Of course!

BULIC: (moves to go back inside) I must get the commander out. (The Doctor stops him)

THE DOCTOR: Impossible! They need him in there.. - you'd never make it Bulic.

Bulic: I must at least try!

The Doctor: yes. But not here, not now.

Bulic stares at him, then nods.

They move over to the shaft.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

Sea Devil pacing outside the detention area.

He pauses and peers in through the inspection plate.

The Sea Devil reacts. He presses a studded button on his belt.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

The DOCTOR, TEGAN and BULIC moving through the shaft.

The DOCTOR pauses eyeing the shaft. An idea forming.

BULIC: Hurry Doctor..!

THE DOCTOR: this shaft extends throughout the base doesn't it Bulic?

BULIC: Most of the base. Not the radiation bunkers . They have their own air supply. Why?

THE DOCTOR: We're not quite so helpless as I thought.

They move on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

SAUVIX and two Warriors march up to join the Sea Devils outside the detention area. He looks in briefly then turns back.

SAUVIX: Alert the Warriors. They are to hunt down the escaped primitives.

Two Sea Devils run off.

SAUVIX moves off with the remaining Sea Devils.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

The DOCTOR, TEGAN and BULIC moving along.

BULIC holds up his hand and they pause.

Sounds of running footsteps outside. They move to peer out through a grille.

A beat and a group of Sea Devils run past.

TEGAN: I think they know we've gone missing.

BULIC: C'mon, we've got to get out of the shaft.

They move on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

TURLOUGH and PRESTON in hiding in a recess.

Sounds of running footsteps and they press back into the shadows.

A beat and a group of Sea Devils come running past.

The footsteps recede, and they relax.

PRESTON: I'm not sure we can stay here too long.

TURLOUGH: Give them a bit longer.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

VORSHAK, ICTHAR and 2nd COMPANION by the Master Console. 1st COMPANION by the synch console.

The door bursts open and SAUVIX and a Sea Devil come in.

SAUVIX: The primitives have escaped Icthar.

ICTHAR comes forward furious.

ICTHAR: Explain Sauvix.

SAUVIX: They got out through the ventilation shaft. My warriors are searching the base now.

ICTHAR looks about.

ICTHAR: The Doctor!

Moves to the computer bank bay and throws the door open.

Looks about, sees the gaping entry to the shaft, and moves back.

VORSHAK smiles grimly. Icthar looks at him.

ICTHAR: The Doctor's Tardis is aboard the base?

Vorshak remains silent.

ICTHAR: Sauvix, send warriors to guard it and find him - find the Doctor.

SAUVIX salutes and leaves with the Warrior.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

The DOCTOR, TEGAN and BULIC moving along.

Sudden noises heard echoing in the shaft.

The DOCTOR looks back.

His POV: Sea Devils at the end of the shaft. One has a weapon raised to fire.

THE DOCTOR: Down!

They press down.

A shot rings out, echoing wierdly in the shaft.

They crawl forward to move round an angle and out of line of fire of the pursuing Sea Devils.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

TURLOUGH and PRESTON hear distant muffled noise of firing coming from the shaft.
They look at each other anxiously.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

The DOCTOR, TEGAN and BULIC moving fast along the shaft. Sounds of pursuit behind.

They come to the end of the shaft where it dips down in a vertical drop.

BULIC: This is as far as we go.

Crawls to the grille and presses against it. It comes free.

A shot rings out distorted by the confined space of the shaft.

The DOCTOR looks back. Sea Devils are moving into view way back along the shaft.

THE DOCTOR: Out Tegan!

TEGAN climbs out into the corridor. Then BULIC,

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

The DOCTOR climbing out. More firing in the shaft.

TEGAN: Hurry Doctor!

The DOCTOR squirms through and drops down.

They are about to move off when a lift opens nearby and two Sea Devils rush out, weapons raised.

They see the DOCTOR's group and cover them. TEGAN goes to run off but is stopped by the DOCTOR.

The Sea Devils raise their weapons to fire.

As they do, TURLOUGH and PRESTON spring into view. They fire and the Sea Devils drop.

TURLOUGH moves up to join them.

BULIC: We'd better lose ourselves Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: The stores?

BULIC: This way.

They move up to the lift and enter. A beat and it begins to descend.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

SAUVIX and three Sea Devils running down a corridor.

They round a corner and pause, reacting to the sight of the dead warriors.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. SUPPLY STORE.

The DOCTOR, TEGAN, TURLOUGH, PRESTON and BULIC emerge cautiously into the Supply Store.

The DOCTOR pauses.

TURLOUGH: Aren't we going to the Tardis?

THE DOCTOR: Dangerous. Icthar is bound to have it watched.

TEGAN: I don't fancy playing hide and seek with the Sea Devils.

THE DOCTOR: We have work to do Tegan. (Looks off). Now, if I remember, the Chemical Store is through there.

He goes, the others following.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

The somewhat disused corridor, off which is the Chemical Store.

A group of Sea Devils moving along checking the area. They move out of sight.

Beat and a door opens. The DOCTOR moves out. All clear, he beckons the rest out and they move through the door to the Chemical Store.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

The DOCTOR moves to examine the labelling on the cylinders of chemicals.

THE DOCTOR: Turlough.. Watch the door.

TEGAN: What are you looking for?

THE DOCTOR: (Taps cylinders.) An alternative to this if possible.

Tegan: that Hexa-Cromite stuff?

The Doctor: yes- something less lethal that could do the job just as well.

Int. Sea Base four - Bridge complex

Sauvix comes in

SAUVIX: No sign of them Icthar. But the Doctor's Tardis is under guard and all exits from the base are sealed.

ICTHAR: Continue the search... and Sauvix, do not return until they are destroyed.

SAUVIX nods and goes.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

The DOCTOR swiftly examining labels on the chemical cylinders. TURLOUGH keeping watch by the door.

BULIC: What are you up to Doctor?

THE DOCTOR: (searching) Not so much me Bulic. It's more what our Silurian friends have in mind!

PRESTON: You spoke to them?

THE DOCTOR: Oh yes. All in all they were quite forthcoming.

BULIC: Don't you think you should tell us.

THE DOCTOR: It doesn't make awfully pleasant listening Bulic.

PRESTON: Tell us anyway.

THE DOCTOR: No time to go into details but in effect, they intend to launch your missiles and trigger the war to end all wars. Between your people of course.

BULIC: Impossible! They can't...

THE DOCTOR: I know. You think it can't be done. But it can, and will unless we find..some way to stop them.

TURLOUGH: (urgent) Doctor!

All tense. TURLOUGH closes the door and gestures for them to hide. They disperse concealing themselves.

A beat, footsteps, and the door crashes open. A Sea Devil looks in sweeping the area.

He moves in. The DOCTOR presses back. As he does his foot knocks against a piece of metal sending it rolling off.

The Sea Devil reacts. Moves forward, sees the DOCTOR and raises the weapon to fire.

The DOCTOR swiftly ducks as the Sea Devil fires. The shot misses but hits a cylinder which punctures. Chemical vapour, under pressure, jets out to envelope the Sea Devil.

His hands go to his gills which begin to encrust with white patches.

He gasps and falls -

The others move out. beat.

It's dead...

TEGAN: What happened?

THE DOCTOR: The Hexa-cromite... That's what it does to all forms of Marine life, Tegan. We must avoid using it if possible.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

As before. ICTHAR pacing. VORSHAK tense.

A sudden alarm noise erupts. All eyes go to the screen.

The readout band is flashing. It reads -

MISSILE Alert

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICALS STORE.

The DOCTOR's group reacting to the sound of the alarm. A few beats and it cuts.

BULIC: (quiet) Missile alert.

The Doctor: It seems it will have to be the Hexa-cromite after all...

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

ICTHAR turns to VORSHAK.

ICTHAR: Authorize Commander.

VORSHAK hesitates then moves reluctantly to place his hand on the imprint recess of the Master Console.

Immediately the screen clears and is overlaid with a Target display. The readout band changes to read -

GREEN ALERT.

2nd COMPANION taps in a sequence.

2nd COMPANION: Authorized. The missile computer is now on countdown to launch.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

THE DOCTOR: Countdown to launch Bulic, how long usually?

BULIC: Fifteen minutes, sometimes more, sometimes less. It's a random process Doctor.

TURLOUGH: Why so long?

BULIC: Checks and balances, Turlough. To avert electronic error.

TURLOUGH: And human error?

BULIC: Our synch operators are linked directly to the computer. Combined, human error is, in theory, eliminated.

PRESTON: Can we stop the launch Doctor?

THE DOCTOR: We can try... come in help me.

He begins to haul out a cylinder.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

2nd COMPANION: The missiles are armed and targetted.

ICTHAR: Initiate rapport.

1st COMPANION presses a switch on the manipulator. It begins to hum. Instantly the synch console area floods with light.

1st COMPANION: The manipulator has rapport with the missile computer.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

The DOCTOR lays down the cylinder.

PRESTON: You intend to use that against the Silurians?

THE DOCTOR: You've seen what it does. Believe me it will take their minds off those missiles.

TURLOUGH: How are we supposed to use it?

THE DOCTOR: We circulate it in the ventilation shaft... and swiftly.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

ICTHAR watching the green alert readout.

VORSHAK: It won't work Silurian. The computer's on another simulated launch. It can't be overridden. It can't.

ICTHAR: We shall see.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

TURLOUGH by the door. The rest working urgently.

BULIC manhandles the cylinder over to the area below the ventilation shaft. PRESTON and TEGAN have removed the grille.

The DOCTOR comes over with a piece of equipment which trails a flexible connecting hose.

The DOCTOR hands the business end of the device to PRESTON who places it in the shaft.
The end of the flexible hose he begins to connect to the cylinder.

A short warning bleep heard.

The DOCTOR looks at BULIC.

BULIC: We've gone to yellow alert Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: hurry!

He feverishly continues connecting up the flexible hose to the cylinder.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

Tension on the bridge. All eyes on the flashing readout band which indicates yellow alert.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

The DOCTOR finishes connecting up the hose.

THE DOCTOR: Switch it on Bulic.

BULIC turns a valve in the mouth of the shaft. They hear the hiss of escaping vapour.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. VENTILATION SHAFT.

The shaft beginning to fill with fine vapour. Caught in the air currents it's whipped up and blown forward.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

HOLDING on a grille outlet. A beat and vapour begins to mist out into the corridor.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

THE DOCTOR: Keep it circulating Bulic. At least until I tell you to stop.

Turns to go.

TEGAN: Where are you going?

THE DOCTOR: To the bridge. Hopefully to convince Icthar to call off the launch.

TEGAN: You honestly think he will?

THE DOCTOR: That vapour will kill him and his people Tegan. I don't want that to happen. Not if I can avoid it.

PRESTON: But if the launch takes place before the vapour affects them?

THE DOCTOR: That above all we must prevent.

Moves out.

BULIC: Go with him Preston.

She follows the DOCTOR. TEGAN looks at TURLOUGH, and both move to go out after the DOCTOR and PRESTON.

BULIC looks up to the shaft, listening to the hiss of escaping vapour.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

Tension. All eyes on the readout band which still flashes yellow alert.

VORSHAK looks carefully over to the humming manipulator. His hand goes to his communicator and unseen takes it off his belt. He palms it and begins to edge his way over to the synch console.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

The DOCTOR, TEGAN, PRESTON and TURLOUGH move along a corridor.

A noise behind them and they spin round to see two Sea Devils appear.

The Sea Devils are swaying, gasping for breath. TURLOUGH goes to fire but the DOCTOR stops him. They try to raise their weapons to fire then drop them to clutch at their gills where white patching is beginning to form.

The DOCTOR looks off to a ventilation grille nearby. Vapour is misting out.

The Sea Devils stagger and fall.

TEGAN: It's working Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: (grimly) All too well, it seems.

They move on up to a lift and enter

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

VORSHAK making his way over towards the synch console, careful to conceal the communicator, and his intentions.

1st COMPANION in attendance, glances up and VORSHAK freezes. A beat and when he looks away, VORSHAK continues his cautious approach.

He pauses within springing distance of 1st COMPANION. Looking over to the Master Console, he checks that ICTHAR and 2nd COMPANION are pre-occupied.

VORSHAK's eyes go to the yellow alert flashing above the screen.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

Vapour misting out of a grille.

Nearby a lift ascends and stops. The doors open and the DOCTOR's group spill out and run on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

A group of Sea Devils reeling drunkenly down the corridor. Their hands clutch their gills, and their breathing desperately laboured.

They begin to collapse, their gills encrusted with white patching.

A beat and the DOCTOR's group come running into view. They pause at the sight of the Sea Devils.

PRESTON: That chemical seems to have done our work for us Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: It has a long way to travel before it reaches the bridge.

They move on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

VORSHAK inches closer to 1st COMPANION by the manipulator. He pauses within striking distance and checks.

ICTHAT and 2nd COMPANION intent on their tasks by the Master Console. The Sea Devil guards unaware.

VORSHAK takes firm hold of the communicator and tenses.

He springs forward suddenly and clubs 1st COMPANION who slumps over the console dazed by the blow from the communicator.

ICTHAR and the others react.

ICTHAR: Stop him!

Sea Devil guards rush forward.

VORSHAK raises his arm and brings the communicator smashing down into the manipulator before they can reach him.

On contact the manipulator crackles. VORSHAK shudders as an electrical charge belts through his body. The communicator chars, he drops it, and staggers released from contact.

The Sea Devil guards rush up to grab him and drag him away.

They push him forward and prepare to shoot him.

ICTHAR: No! Don't kill him!

The Sea Devil guards lower their weapons. Beat.

ICTHAR: You will die primitive. But not yet. Not until you've served our purpose.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

BULIC manhandles another cylinder over to the shaft.

He disconnects the exhausted cylinder and begins to connect up the flexible tube to the new one.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

The DOCTOR's group moving down the corridor.

A sudden alarm bleep brings them to a halt.

A few beats and it cuts.

PRESTON: Red Alert. Doctor the missiles will be ready to fire any moment now.

THE DOCTOR: Quickly.

They move off running fast.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

The readout band now flashing Red Alert.

VORSHAK injured, grim, standing helplessly by.

A bleep from the Master Console.

2nd COMPANION: We need the Commander's imprint to authorize ignition Icthar.

ICTHAR looks at VORSHAK. VORSHAK begins to back away.

ICTHAR: Get him.

The Sea Devil guards begin to close in on VORSHAK.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CHEMICAL STORE.

BULIC finishes connecting up the fresh cylinder and switches it on.
A beat and vapour begins to hiss into the ventilation shaft once more.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR INTERSECTION.

The DOCTOR's group come rushing up to the intersection and pause reacting.

Ahead SAUVIX and two Warriors reeling towards them, their gills encrusted with white patching.

SAUVIX near death, sees the DOCTOR's group. The other Sea Devils collapse.

SAUVIX makes a supreme effort to raise his weapon to fire.

TURLOUGH brings his weapon up to shoot him.

THE DOCTOR: No Turlough!

TURLOUGH pauses. As he watches, SAUVIX drops his weapon, clutches his gills and slowly collapses.

The DOCTOR's group move on.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

Red Alert flashing.

VORSHAK is dragged forward by the Sea Devil guards and brought to the Master Console.

His hand is pressed into the imprint recess.

A bleep and immediately the screen clears to show the pulsing target overlay, the missile dots flashing at the centre.

VORSHAK is hurled aside.

ICTHAR: A few more moments primitive and your kind will find the oblivion they deserve.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

The DOCTOR's group round a corner. Ahead lies the bridge.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

ICTHAR moves up to the manipulator on the synch console.

He glances up at the readout band.

As he does it changes to read -

MISSILES READY TO FIRE

ICTHAR's hand goes to the lever on the manipulator.

C.U. the grille to the ventilation shaft. Nothing for a beat, then vapour begins to hiss into the bridge complex.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. CORRIDOR.

The DOCTOR's group move up to the bridge and burst inside.

INT. SEA BASE FOUR. BRIDGE COMPLEX.

ICTHAR and the others react to the entry of the DOCTOR's group.

The Sea Devil guards raise their weapons.

Tense standoff, the DOCTOR's eyes taking in the readout which flashes - Missiles ready to fire.

ICTHAR: Disarm them.!

A Sea Devil moves forward to take away PRESTON's and TURLOUGH's weapons.

ICTHAR: You are just in time to witness the launch Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: There will be no launch Icthar.

ICTHAR: I warned you not to interfere Doctor. Now like the rest of these primitives you too will soon die. (To 1st Companion) Begin the ignition sequence.

THE DOCTOR: Wait..! Icthar your Warriors are dead. You and these few here are all that remain.

ICTHAR looks at him.

ICTHAR: You lie, Doctor.!

THE DOCTOR: Call up your Warriors if you don't believe me.

ICTHAR: (to 2nd Companion) Contact Sauvix.

2nd COMPANION presses a stud on his belt. A continuous bleep heard. He cuts the signal.

2nd COMPANION: Sauvix's life has been terminated.

ICTHAR looks at the DOCTOR.

ICTHAR: So you too have turned against us, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: (urgent) abandon the launch Icthar. There's still time to save you and your companions here.

ICTHAR: There are millions more ready to replace us.

THE DOCTOR: And you Icthar. Who will replace you? With you dies the last of the Triad, the custodians of your race. What will become of your people then?

ICTHAR: While the ape descended primitives live they have no future. So they will die. And so will you, for my Warriors will be avenged. (To guards) Kill them!

Sea Devils raise their weapons to fire. Then suddenly reel, clutching their gills.

ICTHAR: Kill them!

The Sea Devils drop their weapons and collapse.

THE DOCTOR: (sadly) Too late Icthar.

ICTHAR stares at him wildly, then he and 1st COMPANION get a whiff of the vapour and stagger.

ICTHAR: (gasping) Begin ignition!

1st COMPANION with difficulty presses the switch on the synch console. A warning bleep is heard.

The manipulator begins to pulse.

1st COMPANION: (gasping) Missiles set...

Gasps and collapses.

The DOCTOR goes to move up to the synch console. 2nd COMPANION comes staggering over to attack him.

TEGAN: Doctor!

The DOCTOR avoids 2nd COMPANION who reels past to collapse.

ICTHAR is swaying by the manipulator gasping, close to death.

As the DOCTOR rushes up he falls tripping the lever.

The bleep cuts, the manipulator surges then begins to pulse steadily.

The DOCTOR moves in to examine it.

TEGAN: Has he done it?

THE DOCTOR: Yes. The missiles are set to fire. (To Vorshak) How long have we got Vorshak?

VORSHAK: Less than three minutes. The last sixty seconds to launch are picked up on the counter.

He indicates the prominently displayed digital counter now showing zero seconds.

THE DOCTOR: (Urgent) What's the abort procedure?

VORSHAK: A phased electrical charge aimed directly at the ignition circuit. It restores the launch to simulation.

THE DOCTOR: It must be done at once!

VORSHAK: Impossible Doctor. Only the electronically reinforced human cortex of a synch operator can do it. And Maddox is dead.

Tense Beat.

THE DOCTOR: Then I shall have to try.

VORSHAK: Doctor, it takes years to surgically wire and condition a human brain for such a task.

THE DOCTOR: You have a better idea?

VORSHAK: But It means rapport with the full power of the computer. It would literally burn out an unprepared mind in seconds.

THE DOCTOR: A human mind perhaps. But I'm from Gallifrey. And more than just distance separate us... I'll risk it, but I'll need your help.

A beat, then VORSHAK nods.

VORSHAK: Very well. Get into the seat Doctor.

The DOCTOR moves to sit in the synch operators chair.

A bleep and they look off to the digital counter.

It's flashing sixty seconds. As they watch it changes to read fifty nine.

VORSHAK: We're on final countdown to ignition.

VORSHAK presses a switch and the overhead head piece descends to fit over the DOCTOR's skull. VORSHAK passes his hand over a switch.

VORSHAK: I can perform the manual tasks of the synch operator, but you will have to do the rest.

The DOCTOR nods.

TEGAN: Doctor!

The DOCTOR looks at her.

TEGAN: Good luck.

He nods.

VORSHAK presses the switch. The terminals protruding from the headpiece glow and begin to depress into the DOCTOR's skull.

The DOCTOR's body stiffens. He moans.

TEGAN grabs hold of TURLOUGH's arm and clutches it fiercely.

The DOCTOR's eyes roll in agony. The terminals continue to depress until they can go no further. The DOCTOR's back is arching. Then suddenly he slumps.

TEGAN: It's killing him!

The DOCTOR revives. An agonized look at VORSHAK and nods.

VORSHAK: Good Doctor. You have rapport. I'm now switching you through to the ignition circuits.

TURLOUGH looks up at the digital counter. It now reads 32 seconds.

VORSHAK presses switches and stands back.

VORSHAK: We've isolated the ignition circuit Doctor. Can you identify it?

CAMERA zooms into C.U. on the DOCTOR's eyes.

Image blurs and resolves into an image of the DOCTOR's eyes with an oscillating signal superimposed over them.

VORSHAK's VOICE: (distorted) Nod if you identify.

The DOCTOR's eyes close as he nods.

VORSHAK's VOICE: (distorted) I will now feed in the charge...

ON VORSHAK - normal - the others watching the agonized DOCTOR synched up.

VORSHAK (contd.): To burn it out, concentrate and direct it. But be careful.

On the DOCTOR's eyes, the oscillating circuit superimposed.

VORSHAK's VOICE: (distorted) It must be in phase with the pulse of the circuit. If not it will destroy you. Nod if you comprehend.

The DOCTOR nods.

ON VORSHAK: his face screwed up in tension. He reaches out and hits a switch.

The DOCTOR's body arches. Electrical energy crackles between the terminals of the head piece.

PRESTON looks off to the digital counter. It now reads 17 seconds.

ON the DOCTOR's eyes, the oscillating circuit superimposed.

Two pin points of energy form in the iris' of his eyes. The points grow in size and intensity.

VORSHAK's VOICE: (distorted) Now Doctor!

The energy points simultaneously arc out to transfix the oscillating circuit. The circuit flares and burns.

ON the Group. They see the energy crackle between the headpiece terminals flare and die.

A beat. The headpiece begins to rise automatically.

Released the DOCTOR slumps forward.

TEGAN and TURLOUGH rush forward to examine him.

TEGAN lifts his face. The DOCTOR's face round the area of the eyes is blackened and singed.

His eyes open and he moans.

TEGAN: He's alive!

VORSHAK moves out to look at the digital counter.

It's counting off the last couple of seconds. It hits zero and suddenly a rumbling noise is heard and the bridge vibrates.

The DOCTOR staggers up and comes forward almost collapsing.

THE DOCTOR: (weak) Did it...

VORSHAK: (tense) Don't know... The launch effects for simulation and a real firing are the same.

They look at the screen. The missiles dots are streaking out along their radiating target lines.

The others crowd forward to watch.

The rumbling eases.

Their eyes glue to the missile dots streaking along their trackways on the screen. Tension unbearable.

A few beats then the missile dots suddenly blip off the screen.

A bleep and the readout band changes to read -

- SIMULATED MISSILE RUN -

This clears to read -

ALL CLEAR

The others turn to the DOCTOR, extreme delight on their faces.

They react to the DOCTOR who is lying unconcious on the floor.

EXT. SPACE. MODEL SHOT.

The Tardis in flight. The overhead light flashing.

INT. TARDIS. CONSOLE ROOM.

TEGAN and TURLOUGH by the Console. Time rotor active.

TURLOUGH: I did precisely what the Doctor told me.

TEGAN: I just want it right this time.

TURLOUGH: You blame me for the Silurians.

TEGAN: All I want is a holiday. And In my own time. I've had enough of World Wars and stuff like that.

THE DOCTOR (OOV): It never actually happened you know.

They react. The DOCTOR has entered in dressing gown and slippers. He looks pale but recovered.

TEGAN: What are you doing out of bed?

Moves to check the readings on the Console.

TURLOUGH: What never happened?

THE DOCTOR: World War something or other. You know. The Sea Base folk and their enemies. At least I think it never happened.

TEGAN: Well all those missiles. You'd think people would have more sense.

THE DOCTOR: Quite. But they didn't create the situation Tegan. Something they inherited, like one does a disease. (Reacts) Oh-we seem to have arrived on Earth two hours ago. Or should have.

TEGAN: Please... not again!

THE DOCTOR: Turlough forgot to put the relativity coil on automatic. (Presses switch) There. That should do it. (Smiles at Tegan).

The de-materialization noise begins to build.

EXT. SPACE. MODEL SHOT.

The Tardis in motion. Light flashing. The Tardis de-materializes and vanishes from view.

THE END